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Mexico

Agricultural Situation

Mexico's Weekly Highlights and Hot Bites Report, August/1 2000

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Report Highlights: Summaries of recent Mexican press articles and other developments including:

- SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE**
 - MEXICO IMPOSES EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CONTROL CITRUS TRIZTEZA VIRUS AND THE BROWN CITRUS APHID**
 - MEXICO PROPOSES MODIFYING IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR APRICOTS**
 - REMINDER FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PENDING PROPOSED REGULATIONS**
- and recent FAS/Mexico reports.**
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Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico ATO [MX2], MX

Welcome to Hot Bites from Mexico, a weekly review of issues of interest to the US agricultural community. The topics covered in this report reflect developments in Mexico that have been garnered during travel around the country, reported in the media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Readers should understand that press articles are included in this report to provide insights into the Mexican "mood" facing US agricultural exporters. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office.

DISCLAIMER: Any press summary contained herein does NOT reflect USDA's, the US Embassy's, or any other US Government agency's point of view or official policy.

SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

After a midnight deadline on July 31, the Mexican Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development, Mr. Herminio Blanco, decided to continue talks between Mexico and the United States until next Thursday August 3, to try to reach an agreement on how much duty free sugar Mexico will be able to send to the United States. The negotiations include the entry of Mexican sugar to the U.S. market and a review of the compensatory duties that Mexico applied to U.S. high fructose imports. Since versions of both governments differ as to the Mexican sugar exports for MY 2001, it has been difficult to reach a compromise. The Mexican version indicates that under NAFTA, Mexico would be able to export all its surplus duty free to the U.S. in year seven (approximately 600,000 MT). The U.S. version specifies that Mexico was entitled to a quota of 150,000 to 250,000 MT. (Source: Financiero, Economista, 07/31/00; Reforma, Financiero, The news, 08/01/00; Reforma, Financiero, Economista, 08/02/00)

MEXICO IMPOSES EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CONTROL CITRUS TRIZTEZA VIRUS AND THE BROWN CITRUS APHID

On July 27, 2000, Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (SAGAR) published in the "Diario Oficial" (Federal Register), an emergency rule to implement a National Emergency Mechanism to prevent the spread of and to restrict and eradicate the Brown Citrus Aphid (*Toxoptera citrida*) and the Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV) from Mexico. SAGAR will reinforce regulations for importing citrus products and propagative material and to restraining domestic transportation of citrus, citrus products and by-products. Imported citrus from several countries in the world, including the United States, will have to follow, as usual, the specific product requirements in the Mexican Official Norms or NOM-006-FITO-1995 requirements if there is no specific official norm. A list of countries is displayed in the regulation. According to the local press a specialist from the Agricultural University in Chapingo indicated the importance of trying to block the entrance of these pests but that wind and hurricanes help spread them. The specialist added that it will be very difficult to eradicate the aphids coming from Central America. See FAS/Mexico's report MX0117 for details. (Source: Diario Oficial, Reforma 07/27/00)

MEXICO PROPOSES MODIFYING IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR APRICOTS

On July 27, 2000, Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (SAGAR) published a proposed modification to its regulation NOM-008-FITO-1995 which specifies the requirements to import fruits and vegetables. This proposed modification, if approved, will impose additional requirements to import apricots from the states of California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. These are as follows (See MX0019 for complete details):

- For the state of California, a verification at origin is required and the fulfillment of the specifications of the USDA/SAGAR Work Plan. The international phytosanitary Certificate must be issued at the shipping point and must state *"that the apricots in this shipment were produced and certified according to the Work Plan."*

- For the states of Washington/Oregon/Idaho, no verification at origin is required, only the fulfillment of the specifications of the USDA/SAGAR working plan. The international phytosanitary certificate must be issued at the shipping point and must state *"that the apricots in this shipment were produced and certified according to the Work Plan."*

REMINDER FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PENDING PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The table below summarizes proposed new regulations that the Government of Mexico (GOM) has published in recent weeks that could impact agricultural exporters. As part of the regulatory process, the GOM accepts comments from interested parties, including those from the United States, for 60 calendar days. Any such comments **must** be submitted in Spanish. See the cited FAS Report # for additional information.

Published	End Comment Period	Description	FAS Report#
6/16/2000	8/14/2000	Health Provisions and Specifications for Milk (PROY-NOM-184-SSA1-2000)	MX0100
6/14/2000	8/13/2000	Proposed Regulations to Control Aflatoxins in Cereals (PROY-NOM-188-SSA1-2000)	MX0101
7/12/2000	9/10/2000	Proposed Specifications for Wooden Railroad Ties ("sleepers") PROY-NOM-056-SCT2-2000	n/a
7/27/2000	9/25/2000	Proposed Modification to NOM-008-FITO-1995 Regarding Import Requirements for Apricots.	MX0119

RECENT REPORTS SUBMITTED BY FAS/MEXICO

Report#	Title	Date Sent
MX0114	Mexico's Weekly Highlights and Hot Bites, July/4	7/27/2000
MX0115	Mexico's Livestock Industry Looking Up	8/1/2000
MX0116	Mexico's Monthly Crop Update, July 2000	8/1/2000
MX0117	Emergency Measures to Prevent the Spreading of the Brown Citrus Aphid and the Citrus Tristeza Virus	8/2/2000
MX0118	Exphotel 2000 End of Show Report	8/2/2000
MX0119	Proposed Modifications to NOM-008-FITO-1995 on U.S. Imported Apricots	8/2/2000

Report#	Title	Date Sent
MX0120	Imports of Select Coffee Products from U.S. Exceed NAFTA Safeguard	8/2/2000
MX0121	Auction of Permits to Import Pig Fat Set for Aug 28 th	8/2/2000

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FAS/MEXICO EMAIL

To reach us at FAS/Mexico City, email us at AgMexico@fas.usda.gov or ATO Mexico@fas.usda.gov.

USEFUL MEXICAN WEB SITES

Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGAR) can be found at www.sagar.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Commerce (SECOFI) can be found at www.secofi.gob.mx These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.